

## HOYNE TO START CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AGAINST RICH PEOPLE WHO DODGE TAXES

Undervalued loop property, including stores on State street, are aimed at in the new taxdodging campaign outlined by State's Attorney Hoyne, which promises to be one of the most sensational crusades ever started.

Hoyne is disgusted with merely imposing cheap fines for failure to file schedules and has determined to invoke the criminal statutes.

From now on all flagrant taxdodgers will be prosecuted for conspiracy. In the County Court today Ass't State's Att'ys Berger and Bell will start the serious work by filing blanket informations against several wealthy men. If Hoyne is successful in his campaign millions of dollars of unpaid taxes will be restored to the city.

Those found guilty of the charges contained in the information may be fined \$5,000 and imprisoned not to exceed a period of two years in the penitentiary or in the county jail.

The blanket information charges conspiracy to defraud the city, county and state out of \$50,000,000 of taxes, covering a period dating back about two years.

Hoyne and his assistants exposed some of the taxdodgers' methods yesterday. The two principal ways are:

1. Avoiding legal tax payments by refusal to file personal property schedules and letting the Board of Assessors fix a nominal assessment, usually upon the basis of an undervaluation.

2. Dodging tax payment entirely by the exertion of political or other influence and having chedules marked "no assessment."

One of the most startling facts uncovered by the state's attorney's office bears upon the existence of a ring of high-priced corporation lawyers who have been shielding the wealthy taxdodgers for years.

"The inquiry will be a sweeping

one," said Ass't State's Att'y Bell. "We have directed our investigation into the operation of a certain taxdodging machine which has worked for years with a perfect system.

"Associated with the ring of taxdodgers we have found a coterie of lawyers who will not be beyond the reach of the same conspiracy clause of the criminal code under which we shall bring our prosecutions.

"The result of taxdodging in Cook county has been the escape from taxation by large property holders at the expense of the small payer, who was compelled to bear the burden of higher rates, created automatically as the men higher up failed to schedule their properties.

"A conservative estimate of the amount of tax money which has been thus diverted from the county, I should say, would be more than \$20,000,000 for each year during the last ten years. The \$50,000,000 sought to be recovered in the information filed yesterday represented taxes dodged for about two years.

Undervalued property which Hoyne hopes to force legitimate taxes on:

### Real Property.

- 1—Railroads. Property not on right-of-way.

- 2—Banks.

- 3—Loop property. Office buildings, department stores and other property.

- 4—Corporations with large holdings.

- 5—Individuals with large holdings.

### Personal Property.

- 1—Corporations. Capital stock, merchandise, fixtures and credits.

- 2—Firms. Merchandise, fixtures and credits.

- 3—Individuals. Mortgages, stock in foreign corporations, notes and securities, bonds and other personal property.

### Property Escaping Entirely.

Another list of property which has